

a wavelength of 520 nm shown in FIG. 13. An n-type cladding layer 61 made of GaN, an active layer 62 made of GaInN, a p-type cladding layer 63 made of AlGaIn and a p-type contact layer 64 made of GaN were formed by MOVPE method on the epitaxial substrate 10. After partially exposing the n-type cladding layer 61 by dry etching, the p-side electrode 65 and the n-side electrode 66 were formed by electron beam vapor deposition, thereby to obtain the light emitting diode 6.

[0142] The light emitting diode showed an external quantum efficiency about 1.5 times higher than that of a light emitting diode of similar structure made by using an epitaxial substrate having such a structure as the heterojunction interface of the light emitting device structure is perpendicular on the C-plane sapphire substrate.

Example V

[0143] The epitaxial substrate 10 was used to make a laser diode oscillating at a wavelength of 400 nm shown in FIG. 14. An n-type contact layer 701 made of GaN, an n-type cladding layer 702 made of AlGaIn, an n-type guide layer 703 made of GaN, an active layer 704 made of GaInN, a p-type guide layer 705 made of GaN, a block layer 706 made of AlGaIn, a p-type cladding layer 707 made of AlGaIn and a p-type contact layer 708 made of GaN were formed by MOVPE method on the epitaxial substrate 10. After exposing the n-type contact layer 701 by dry etching, the p-type cladding layer was exposed to form a ridge structure. An insulation layer 709 was formed from SiO₂ so as to cover the side wall of the ridge structure, and the p-side electrode 710 and the n-side electrode 711 were formed by electron beam vapor deposition, thereby to obtain the laser diode 7.

[0144] The laser diode showed threshold current lower than that of a device made by using an epitaxial substrate having such a structure as the heterojunction interface is perpendicular to the C axis of the prior art.

Example VI

[0145] The epitaxial substrate 10 was used to make a field effect transistor 8 shown in FIG. 15. A channel layer 81 made of GaN and a barrier layer 82 made of AlGaIn were formed successively by the MOVPE method. After carrying out isolation of device, a source electrode 83, a drain electrode 84 and a gate electrode 84 were formed by electron beam vapor deposition, thereby to obtain the field effect transistor 8.

[0146] Current did not flow between the source electrode 83 and the drain electrode 84 when the gate bias was zero. When +1 V of bias voltage was applied, current of 0.1 A/mm flowed. Thus the enhancement type operation that had been impossible in the past was obtained.

Example VII

[0147] In Examples III through VI, after growing the first layer 13 having the condition of crystallinity such as the irregularity 13a described above, the second layer was grown thereon without taking sample out of the semiconductor growing apparatus. In Example VII, in contrast, the second layer 24 made of GaN was grown after growing the first layer and taking it out of the semiconductor growing apparatus and checking the irregularity 13a.

[0148] RMS surface roughness of the epitaxial substrate 10, density of threading dislocations and density of stacking faults showed similar values as those in Example III-1, even when the second layer 24 was grown after once taking out the sample. The light emitting diode 6 shown in FIG. 13, the laser diode 7 shown in FIG. 14 and the field effect transistor 8 shown in FIG. 15 were made similarly to Example III through VI, respectively. Thus the semiconductor devices having characteristics similar to those of Example III through VI were obtained.

Example VIII

[0149] In Examples III through VII, the first layer 23 having the condition of crystallinity such as the irregularity 23a was grown. In Example VIII, in contrast, after growing the first layer, the sample was taken out of the semiconductor growing apparatus and the first layer was intentionally processed with dry etching to obtain the surface irregularity 23a, and then the second layer was grown.

[0150] RMS surface roughness of the epitaxial substrate 10, density of threading dislocations and density of stacking faults showed similar values as those in Example III-1, even when the second layer 24 was grown after once taking out the sample and intentionally processing the first layer to obtain the surface irregularity 23a. The light emitting diode 6 shown in FIG. 13, the laser diode 7 shown in FIG. 14 and the field effect transistor 8 shown in FIG. 15 were made similarly to Example III through VI, respectively. Thus the semiconductor devices having characteristics similar to those of Examples III through VI were obtained.

Example IX

[0151] In Examples III through VIII, the second layer 24 was grown from GaN. In Example IX, in contrast, the second layer 24 made of Al_{0.2}Ga_{0.8}N was grown after growing the first layer 23 made of Al_{0.5}Ga_{0.5}N so as to obtain the surface irregularity 23a described above.

[0152] RMS surface roughness of the epitaxial substrate 10, density of threading dislocations and density of stacking faults showed similar values as those in Example III-1, also when the second layer 14 made of Al_{0.2}Ga_{0.8}N was grown. The light emitting diode 6 shown in FIG. 13, the laser diode 7 shown in FIG. 14 and the field effect transistor 8 shown in FIG. 15 were made similarly to Example III through VI, respectively.

[0153] The devices had other layers made of GaN (the n-type cladding layer 61 in the case of the light emitting diode, the n-type cladding layer 71 in the case of the laser diode and the channel layer 81 in the case of the field effect transistor) formed on the second layer 24.

[0154] Thus the semiconductor devices having characteristics similar to those of Example III through VI were obtained.

Example X

[0155] While the base layer 22 was used in Examples III through IX, the first layer 23 was grown directly on the R-plane sapphire substrate 21 without using the base layer 22 in this example.

[0156] First, the first layer made of AlN was grown directly on the R-plane sapphire substrate 21 by the MOVPE